OPPOSITION LEADER CRITICIZES LITHUANIAN PRIME MINISTER. At a press conference on 9 January, Homeland Union Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis sharply criticized the policies of Adolfas Slezevicius over military transit. Landsbergis said he feared that Slezevicius, in planned talks with his Russian counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdyn, later this month in Moscow, may agree to sign a separate military transit agreement with Russia in exchange for getting most-favored-nation trade status. Landsbergis noted that the premier's "inclination to improvisations" in foreign policy had resulted in misunderstandings in talks with Poland, Belarus, and Latvia.-- Saulius Girnius, OMRI,
Inc.

LITHUANIAN OIL REFINERY SHUT DOWN AGAIN. Gediminas Kiesus, deputy director-general of the Nafta oil refinery in Mazeikiai, said the facility closed down shortly before the New Year for the fifth time in 1994 owing to irregular oil supplies. Although it signed a contract to supply 250,000 tons of crude oil in December, the Russian oil company Lukoil sent only 150,000 tons, forcing the shut down. Nafta, which has the capacity to refine 13.8 million tons of oil per year, refined just 3.7 million tons in 1994, of which 1.3 million tons came from Lukoil. Kiesus explained that the major problem in obtaining crude oil was the lack of circulating funds to purchase it. The US company ABB Lummus Crest has agreed to lend Nafta $20 million, but the money cannot be expected until late January, when the enterprise holds a presentation in London with other potential creditors. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

CRIME IN LITHUANIA. Interior Minister Romasis Vaitekunas told a press conference in Vilnius on 10 January that the number of crimes in 1994 exceeded 58,500, down 2.9% on from the 60,371 registered the previous year. The number of crimes per year has increased sharply since 1988, when 21,337 crimes were registered. Although the overall crime rate was down, auto thefts nearly doubled during 1994. The authorities success rate in solving crimes was 40.8%. Vaitekunas also noted that his ministry has approved only 265 of the more than 2,000 applications to purchase firearms for personal protection. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.